



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
AWN TONETTE JACKSON, L.P.N.	:	
License # 26NP06501300	:	
	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Awn Tonette Jackson ("Respondent") is a Licensed Practical Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about May 9, 2012, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked

whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2012" referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012. Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

3. On or about May 15, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014" referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. Respondent answered "yes" and certified that answer by submitting the online application.

4. By letter dated December 16, 2014, the Board asked Respondent to provide proof of all continuing education credits earned during your "last renewal period of 6/1/10 - 5/31/12." Although Respondent's last renewal period was actually 6/1/12 - 5/31/12, the letter had included the dates of 6/1/10 - 5/31/12.

5. Respondent provided a response by letter dated 12/26/14 and another similar response which the Board received in April 2015. Both responses included the same attachments - documentation of completing the following continuing education:

- 4 hours within the 6/1/10 - 5/31/12 biennial period; and
- 0 hours within the 6/1/12 - 5/31/14 biennial period.

Respondent indicated that she had completed the required continuing education, however, was only able to locate some of the certificates of completion. Respondent also provided a list of "activities" completed, but the list does not constitute valid documentation of completion as it is not a certificate of completion, and does not indicate that the courses were approved/accredited as continuing education for nurses (as opposed to in-service training).

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2010 - May 31, 2012 or June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on September 8, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license and imposing a reprimand and a \$250 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order, acknowledging that she could not demonstrate proof of timely completion of continuing education for the June 1, 2010-May 31, 2012 licensing cycle. However, respondent cured the deficiency by providing documentation of completion of a total of 42 hours of continuing

education completed during the 2012-2014 licensing cycle, and a total of 59.5 hours during the 2014-2016 licensing cycle. The Board therefore determined that suspension of respondent's nursing license was no longer applicable. However, the Board further determined that the reprimand for misrepresentation on respondent's 2014 renewal application was warranted, as was the \$250 penalty imposed for failure to timely complete continuing education for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016,

ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on her license renewal application.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Leslie Burgos, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing

of this order. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: *Patricia Murphy PhD APN*  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President